

## **Purpose**

Under the Newborn Hearing Screening law, RSMo 191.931, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall “monitor the delivery of early intervention services to those infants identified by the newborn hearing screening program and report annually to the department of health and senior services.” Eligible infants are served by the Missouri First Steps Program under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This report provides information related to the number of First Steps infants identified through the newborn hearing screening program during calendar year 2012.

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## **Infants Enrolled in the First Steps Program**

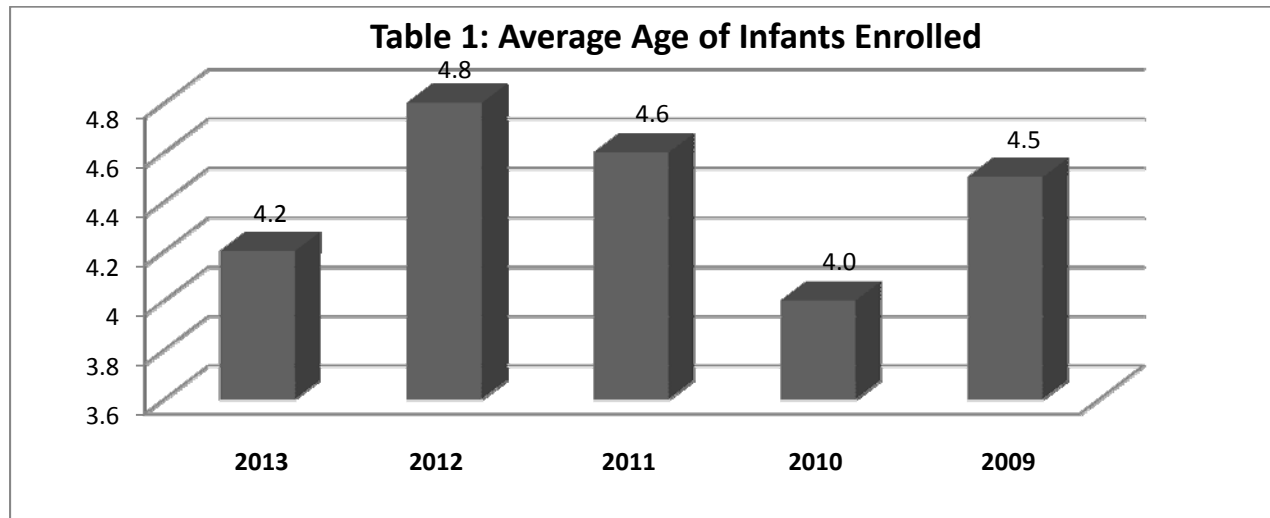
As of January 22, 2014, 105 infants born in 2012 were identified with hearing loss by the Department of Health (DHSS). It is important to note that the 105 infants included infants who received incomplete results or unknown types of loss based on what was reported to DHSS. Infants who were determined to be suffering from middle ear pathology (e.g., fluid in the middle ear from colds, ear infections) and who do not have a permanent hearing loss could be removed from the list at a later date based on updates received from audiologists.

Of the 105 infants identified by DHSS, 91 (86.6%) were found in the First Steps database. Of the 91 infants in First Steps, 71 (78.0%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 20 infants did not reach IFSP status due to ineligible for the program, withdrawal from the program or unable to locate the family.

Of the 71 infants who reached IFSP status, 62 (87.3%) were in active status at the end of 2013. Of the 71 infants who reached IFSP status, five moved out of state, two were unable to contact or locate, and two were withdrawn by a parent or guardian.

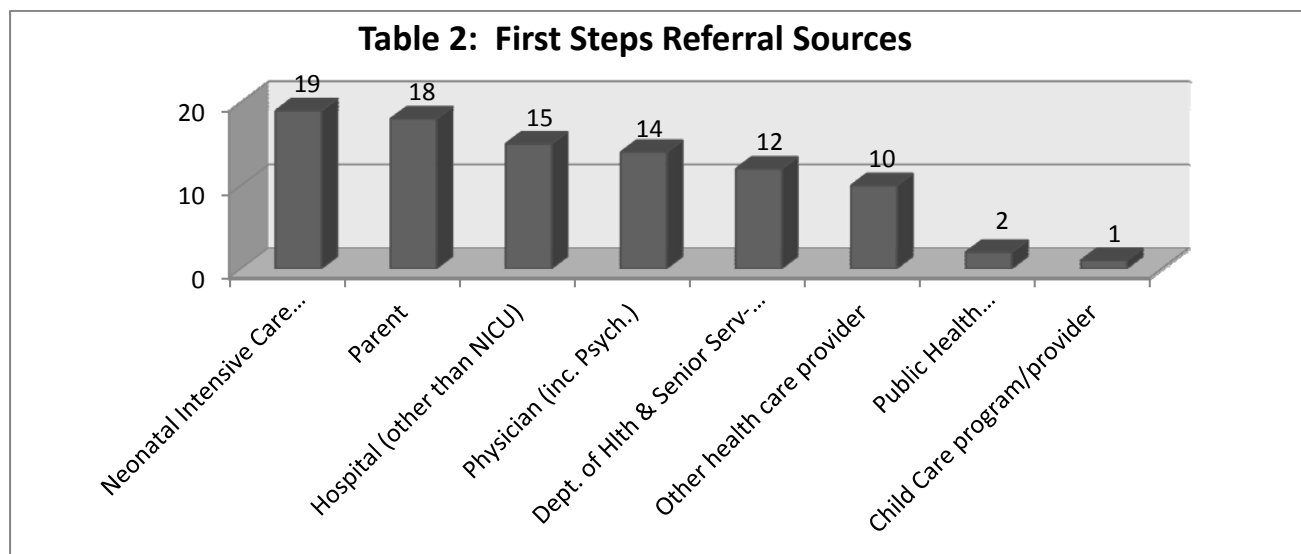
## Average Age

Table 1 represents the average age of infants at the time of enrollment in First Steps. The National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) goal regarding Part C of IDEA is to have infants enrolled by six months of age. The average age for infants enrolled in First Steps in 2013 was 4.2 months, which exceeds the goal. Additionally, as shown below in Table 1, the average age has been below six months for the past five years.



## Referral Sources

Table 2 represents the sources of First Steps referrals for infants with hearing loss identified by DHSS. Of the 91 infants referred to First Steps, most were made by a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with 19 (20.8%), followed closely by parents with 18 (19.8%).



## Type of Hearing Loss

Table 3 represents the type of hearing loss, and related First Steps referral and eligibility percentages, for the 105 infants identified by DHSS. Of the 105 infants, 67 (63.8%) were found to have a sensorineural hearing loss. Of the 67 infants with sensorineural hearing loss, 60 (89.5%) were referred to First Steps and 48 (80.0%) reached IFSP.

**Table 3: Type of Hearing Loss and First Steps Status**

Type of Loss	Infants Identified by NHS in 2012	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	Eligibility%
Sensorineural	→ 67	60	48	80.0%
Auditory Neuropathy	→ 8	6	6	100.0%
Mixed	→ 8	6	3	50.0%
Permanent Conductive	→ 4	2	2	100.0%
Incomplete Testing and/or Unknown Type	→ 18	17	12	70.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>→ 105</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>78.0%</b>

## Service Authorizations

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 62 infants identified by DHSS who were enrolled in the First Steps program. At the end of calendar year 2013, there were a total of 203 active authorizations for the 62 infants with hearing loss. The top three categories of First Steps service authorizations were:

- 1) 68 (33.5%) authorizations for Special Instruction;
- 2) 64 (31.5%) authorizations for Audiology; and
- 3) 27 (13.3%) authorizations for Physical Therapy.

**Table 4: 2013 First Steps Authorizations**

	AT Service	Consultation/ Facilitation with Others	Direct Child Service	Evaluation/ Assessment	Family Education/ Training/Support	OAE limited: Evoked otoacousti	Tympanometry (impedance testing)	Visual Reinforcement Audiometer	Grand Total	Percentage
<b>Audiology</b>	10	11	17	4		8	7	7	64	<b>31.5%</b>
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>		6	18						24	<b>11.8%</b>
<b>Physical Therapy</b>		3	24						27	<b>13.3%</b>
<b>Special Instruction</b>		17	49		2				68	<b>33.5%</b>
<b>Speech Language Pathology</b>		1	19						20	<b>9.8%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	10	38	127	4	2	8	7	7	203	<b>100.0%</b>

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